



USS *San Jacinto* aids Yemeni vessel in distress

By USS Harry S. Truman and USS San Jacinto public affairs

GULF OF OMAN (NNS)
— The Norfolk-based cruiser USS *San Jacinto* (CG 56) recently responded to the distress call of a small Yemeni boat 60 miles off the coast of Yemen. The boat experienced engine problems, stranding its 11 Yemeni passengers at sea for 10 days.

At 2:02 p.m. local time, a Navy SH-60B Seahawk helicopter attached to the warship discovered the dhow with people on deck waving their arms wildly. The helicopter, permanently assigned to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 42 Detachment 8, based out of Mayport, Fla., was on a routine patrol and relayed the information to *San Jacinto*, which then changed course to render assistance.

“The passengers appeared physically drained and they had exhausted their supply of food and water,” said Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Abdulkarim Mohamed, *San Jacinto*’s Yemen-born interpreter. “We used our small boat to provide them with enough food and water to make it back to shore.”

“The crew had rigged a makeshift sail, but it was clear that the rig was not working out too well,” said Ensign Brian Maynard, one of *San Jacinto*’s boarding officers assisting in the replenishment effort. “I’m glad we were in the right spot at the right time.”

San Jacinto towed the

boat to the Yemeni port of Ghubbat Al Mukalla where the boat and crew were turned over to a Yemeni pilot vessel for the final tow in to the pier.

“*San Jac* Sailors were anxious to help out the crew of the stricken vessel,” said Capt. Craig Langman, *San Jacinto*’s commanding officer. “They were fellow sailors who needed a little help, and we were happy to oblige. There are no nationalities out here when it comes to someone in need.”

The Yemeni passengers were indeed very grateful to the *San Jacinto* crew, thanking them over and over again as

See *Distress*, page 4



USS *San Jacinto*’s (CG 56) boarding team rendered assistance to a Yemeni vessel. The Yemeni sailors were lost at sea for 10 days. *San Jacinto* is en route to the Arabian Gulf to support Operation Southern Watch. Photo by GSMC (SW) David W. Maisenhelder

Homeward bound: USS *Abraham Lincoln* departs the Arabian Gulf

By Journalist 1st Class(SW) David Rush, USS *Abraham Lincoln* public affairs

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, At Sea (NNS) — Following approximately 90 days in the Arabian Gulf enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq, the warriors of USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) are heading home.

With a challenging deployment drawing near its end, just 45 days remain until “Abe” arrives pierside in Everett, Wash. As for the recent port visit in the 5th Fleet region, most Sailors initially preferred to remain at sea rather than to break up the daily rhythm by pulling

into Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates — that is, until they got there.

Vendors were set up in trailers, selling a variety of goods including electronics, music, jewelry and exotic rugs. Activities including softball, basketball, go-kart racing and camel rides were some of the more popular events. The short break, coinciding with the Christmas holiday, provided Sailors the opportunity to not only let off some steam but to also shop for gifts, exercise, eat a variety of foods and, in

general, just relax.

According to Capt. Douglas K. Dupouy, *Abraham Lincoln*’s commanding officer, the Jebel Ali port visit was a great way to spend the holidays.

“It gave our Sailors a well-deserved break in the daily routine and provided a means of getting off the ship to stretch their legs and enjoy some camaraderie with their shipmates in a more relaxed

See *Lincoln*, page 3

New kiosks help Sailors make career decisions

By Ensign Bill Danzi, Center for Career Development

MILLINGTON (NNS) — Navy Personnel Command's Center for Career Development (CCD) in Millington, Tenn., is installing career information kiosks in Navy Exchanges throughout the continental U.S. to assist Sailors and their families in making informed career decisions.

The first kiosk was placed at the Norfolk Navy Exchange in December 2000, while the second will be installed at NAS Pensacola's Navy Exchange in late January. Additional kiosks will be installed at Jacksonville, Fla., San Diego and Whidbey Island, Wash., commands in February.

"The kiosks will provide

Sailors and their families information on the value of their pay and compensation, as well as information on numerous other benefits, such as TRICARE, housing, MWR, local educational opportunities, local facilities and essential points of contact," explained Cmdr. David Alexander, CCD's Information Technology department head.

Kiosk features include the following:

- A compensation calculator, which will compare a Sailor's pay and compensation to the civilian sector. It also provides explanations of pays and benefits, as well as retirement calculations;

- REDUX vs. High-3

retirement comparison, so that members can determine which retirement option is in their best interest;

- Quality of Life information, such as:
- MWR,
- Local Housing,
- Local Family Services,
- Local TRICARE information,
- Local Navy College information,
- Local Community Information,
- Portal Navy Exchange web site.

Alexander said each kiosk will also have an Internet connection to allow it to be routinely updated and remotely maintained. Additionally, it will allow the user to access

information over the Internet through designated military links.

"Through our partnership with NEXCOM, Sailors, their spouses and family members will have access to information that has not been previously readily available," added CCD Director, Capt. Jake Ross.

Ross said the information provided by the kiosk will be gradually tailored through feedback from the fleet and their families, with future plans to tie to the StayNavy web site (currently under development).

"We are proud to support the fleet and its commitment to the professional and personal needs of Sailors and their families," said Ross.

USS *Harry S. Truman* completes first port call

By USS *Harry S. Truman* public affairs

SOUDA BAY, Crete (NNS) — The Sailors and Marines aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) recently completed the first port visit of their maiden deployment, pulling into Souda Bay, Crete, for liberty Dec. 20-24, 2000. While in Crete, the crew took advantage of a number of excellent tours organized by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division and visited nearby Chania, the second largest city on the island.

Airman Jerry Cosca of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 130 enjoyed his time in Chania.

"It was a good chance for everyone to walk around and get off the ship for a while," said Cosca, a Redding, Calif., native. "I got to see a lot of

great sights. It was a little wet, but a little water never hurt anyone."

Postal Clerk 3rd Class Oliver Jones agreed.

"I had fun and got a lot of shopping done," said Jones, a Rocky Mount, N.C., native. "I liked trying the different food, like gyros."

Truman's Command Religious Ministries department also organized a community relations project in which more than 30 crewmembers visited a Chania senior citizens home and the National Institute for Persons with Special Needs. The Sailors brought holiday cheer to the homes' residents, singing Christmas carols during the visit.

"Community relations is a really positive signature,

whether it is in a foreign port or in our country," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Coyle, *Truman's* assistant command chaplain. "The director of the Institute said he could see that *Truman* is here to help others and be peacemakers."

"The language barrier was not a problem; the people were happy to hear the music and get handshakes and hugs," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Dudley, IM-3 assistant division officer. Dudley led the group of Sailors in song; he provided the sheet music and also played guitar.

Truman, with a complement of nearly 5,000 Sailors and Marines, left Norfolk, Va., Nov. 28, 2000 for a scheduled six-month deployment to the

Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. It is the first deployment for the *Truman*, the U.S. Navy's newest aircraft carrier. The eight squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 3 are embarked aboard the carrier.

Truman is the centerpiece of the Harry S. *Truman* Battle Group, commanded by Rear Adm. Jim McArthur. *Truman's* commanding officer is Capt. David L. Logsdon. Carrier Air Wing 3 is commanded by Capt. Joe Kilkenny.

More information about USS *Harry S. Truman* and other carriers of the Atlantic Fleet can be found at <http://www.airlant.navy.mil/carriersbar.htm>.

More information about Souda Bay, Crete, can be found at <http://www.souda.navy.mil>.

Navy continues to protect marine life off East Coast

By Bob Nelson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast Environmental public affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) — With the onset of colder weather in the northeastern United States, its time again for northern right whales to begin their annual autumn migration to warmer waters of the southeastern coast. As certain as this annual migration is, so too is the Navy's commitment to protecting these endangered baleen whales as they transit through waters off of the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida in search of warmer, shallow coastal waters to give birth to their calves.

The northern right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine mammals with estimates of approximately 300 right whales remaining in the North Atlantic. Adult whales can reach sizes of up to 55 feet long and calves can reach sizes of 20 feet long. The whales have distinctive "V- shaped" blows, no dorsal fins, short and broad flippers and deeply notched tail flukes with smooth trailing edges.

Since 1997, as a result from consultations with National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), the Navy agreed to employ year-round measures designed to protect northern right whales and other endangered species while operating in a special "consultation area." The "consultation area" encompasses sea space from Charleston, S.C., southward to San Sebastian Inlet, Fla., and from the coast seaward to 80 nautical miles from shore.

Parts of the "consultation area" serve as critical habitat and winter calving grounds and nursery areas for the migratory northern right whales. The critical habitat area for the whales coincides with shipping lanes and stretches from Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., down the East Coast to a point south of Naval Station Mayport, Fla., as well as to offshore operating areas where Navy units conduct exercises.

The Navy has developed steps specifically designed to safeguard the whales during the calving season from Dec. 1 to March 31. According to Ken

Conley, natural resource conservation specialist, the Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) team has developed a series of training aids, videos, posters and other hand out materials used to educate ship's lookouts and navigators on Navy vessels and aircraft about the northern right whale.

"While operating in the federally designated critical habitat, Navy surface ships and submarines are posting vigilant look-outs and bridge watchstanders who are trained to identify and report right whales," said Conley.

Navy vessels are required to use extreme caution during transit through the critical habit and ensure they maintain a buffer of 500 yards from whales and by proceeding at the slowest possible speeds to afford adequate stopping distances as circumstances and ocean conditions change. In addition, Navy ships will not conduct north-south transits in the critical habitat area or while operating in an Associated Area of Concern (AAOC), which extends another five miles eastward beyond the federally designated critical habitat.

Leading the Navy's stewardship effort is the Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Jacksonville, (FACSFAC). FACSFAC's operations specialists are the designated coordinators for fleet operating areas and related air space and also man the "Whale Fusion Center." According to Capt. Jim Cannon, FACSFAC commanding officer, his team of specialists coordinate ship and aircraft clearance into the right whale critical habitat and the surrounding operating areas based on prevailing weather, surface conditions, whale sightings and the mission or event to be conducted.

"The communications network and reporting system that's in place ensures the widest possible exchange and dissemination of right whale sighting information to Department of Defense and Coast Guard vessels and civilian

Lincoln, con't. from pg. 1

setting," Dupouy said. "They performed superbly, and I want to commend all of the people who helped to make it an outstanding port visit."

Many milestones were reached while the carrier was on station in the Arabian Gulf. When they weren't busy taking care of approximately 5,000 aircraft launches and recoveries or ensuring the safe transfer of nearly 8 million gallons of jet fuel, Abe Sailors placed a high priority on attending to their professional growth. In just three months, Abe qualified/requalified 132 Sailors as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists (ESWS) and another 95 Sailors as Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists (EAWS). This achievement was the result of tremendous dedication on behalf of the men and women who sacrificed personal time outside of long workdays to achieve this career-enhancing designation.

The last day of flight operations in the Arabian Gulf was Dec. 29 as the ship entered the transit phase, departing the region on its way to Australia.

Abraham Lincoln Sailors will have another chance to relax "Down Under" in Perth, Australia. A multitude of activities and tours will be available to those wishing to take advantage of what is reputed to be one of the best liberty ports in the world.

Following the visit to Perth, Sailors will get a chance to spend some quality time in the equally beautiful city of Hobart, Australia. The final transit across the Pacific will take the ship to San Diego where the air wing will detach. The ship will later head north to its homeport of Everett, Wash.

More information about USS *Abraham Lincoln* can be found at <http://www.lincoln.navy.mil>.

See **Protect**, page 4

Dengue fever strikes Palau, Navy dispatches team to help

By Journalist 2nd Class Heather Paynter, ComNavMarianas public affairs

GUAM (NNS) — A recent outbreak of dengue fever in Palau has resulted in dozens if not hundreds of sick people. Naval Hospital Guam dispatched a five-member team to make an assessment of the outbreak after receiving a request from the local government. Palau is a small island in Micronesia located approximately 800 miles from Guam.

Dengue fever is spread from one human to another by way of so-called “day-biter” mosquitoes, also known by the name “Ades Aegypti.” Someone who is ill will exhibit serious flu-like symptoms such as high fever and chills.

Lieutenant Byron Wiggins, NAVHOSP Guam’s Planning, Operations and Medical Intelligence (POMI) officer, was part of the hospital assessment team sent to Palau on Dec. 20.

“A big part of curbing this one and preventing further outbreaks is environmental protection,” Wiggins said. “Years back, dengue was introduced into Palau from somewhere and once it’s in the environment, the area will have these cyclic outbreaks unless action is taken.”

Wiggins said that since this latest outbreak, the Palauan government has become more proactive, but uninterrupted action is essential.

“We delivered insecticide, but environmental action needs to be continuous,” Wiggins said.

Preventive Medicine Field Inspector

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Russell Degidio also was part of the hospital team sent to assess the dengue fever outbreak on Palau.

“Patients have high-grade fevers, up to 106 degrees, and it’s prolonged,” Degidio said. “They exhibit strong flu-like symptoms and the primary treatment is to rehydrate.”

According to Degidio, once a patient contracts dengue fever, the main thing to do is ride it out.

The up side to this outbreak is that it appears to be leveling off. “The dry season is coming up and the mosquito population is going down,” Degidio said.

The troublesome mosquitoes primarily responsible for Palau’s epidemic, the day-biters, are active during the day, but not very much at night. They lay larvae in standing water with an incubation period of approximately 14 to 21 days.

The outbreak began in late August 2000 and continued to the point where the government of Palau sent a formal request for assistance.

The team consisted of Cmdr. Rob Hunter, a family practice specialist; Lt. Vernon Richmond, an occupational health specialist and HM2 Jonathan Gilmore in addition to Wiggins and Degidio. They arrived late in the evening of Dec. 20 with saline and intravenous solutions and spent the next two days conducting assessments.

Protect, con’t. from pg. 3

shipping,” said Cannon. “Prior to entering the critical habitat, Navy ships are required to contact the FACSAC to obtain the latest whale sighting information and they must report whale sightings to the center.”

In addition to FACSAC’s stewardship efforts, CNRSE works in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), the New England Aquarium, the Marine Mammal Commission and other partners within the Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team (SIT) for the Recovery of the Northern Right Whale headed by the U.S. Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration. To date, more than 45 whale sightings have been reported to FACSAC. During the entire 1999-2000 season, 52 sightings were reported to FACSAC.

Commander, Navy Region Southeast and FACSAC are also a major component of the SIT’s Northern Right Whale Early Warning System (EWS). CNRSE contributes nearly \$100,000 annually in support of the EWS.

“The Navy is very much committed to protecting the northern right whale. Following a high of six whale deaths in 1996 from ship strikes and natural causes in the southeast, there have been no more deaths from ship strikes,” Conley said. “Improved EWS aerial surveying, better sighting techniques, and more efficient sighting reporting procedures by FACSAC have significantly reduced the potential for ship/whale collisions. Through our efforts and those of our partners, the endangered northern right whale has a better chance of surviving.”

For updated whale sighting information, visit <http://www.facsacjax.navy.mil>.

Distress, con’t. from pg. 1

the cruiser rendered assistance. One passenger, an elderly gentleman, expressed his gratitude with tears of joy. “God bless you,” a passenger said as *San Jacinto* turned the stranded dhow over to the pilot vessel.

“We were fortunate to be in a position to be able to lend a helping hand,” said Rear Adm. Jim McArthur, commander of the *Harry S. Truman* Battle Group. “It is common for our forward-deployed naval forces to assist those in distress on the high seas. It is satisfying to be able to

extend a helping hand to friends in peril and be able to make a difference.”

San Jacinto deployed Nov. 28 with the USS *Harry S. Truman* Battle Group and will return to its homeport of Norfolk, Va., in late May.

More information about USS *San Jacinto* can be found at <http://www.navy.mil> under the “fact file.”

For more information about USS *Harry S. Truman* and other carriers of the Atlantic Fleet, go to <http://www.airlant.navy.mil/Carriersbar.htm>.

Young artists sought after for military families art contest

By the Armed Services YMCA

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (NNS) — Elementary school artists could win a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond in the sixth annual Armed Services YMCA Art Contest — but time is running out!

Children in kindergarten through sixth grade who are dependents of military members may submit drawings of their military families no later than Jan. 27.

In addition to \$500 savings bonds for each service winner, the top artists have their artwork printed and distributed to military family support centers on the Military Family Week poster. Military Family Week is recognized every year during Thanksgiving week.

Second place winners receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Students of military families in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard are eligible to enter. Students of Reservists' families will be judged with their affiliated service.

Department of Defense civilians' children may enter in an honorary category for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Artwork should be in color, on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper. Black and white drawings may be entered but are less likely to be selected as top winners. Entries should depict the student's military family.

The following information should be included on the back of each entry: student's name, grade and age; address; phone number or e-mail where a parent may be reached; parents' names; service affiliation (if Reserve, please also indicate); rank of military member; military installation; and school or youth program, if entered contest this way.

Mail entries to:
Armed Services YMCA
Attn: Art Contest
6225 Brandon Ave., Suite 215
Springfield, VA 22150.

Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- Defense Secretary William Cohen and members of the USS *Cole* (DDG 67) commission brief reporters on the findings of their investigation.

- DoD and military leaders bid farewell to President Clinton during a ceremony at Fort Myer, Va.

- Camp Pendleton Marines sharpen their firefighting skills with training and hard work to prepare for possible real-life disasters on the flightline.

- Sailors and Marines in San Diego have a great time taking part in the ceremonies and festivities of this year's Holiday Bowl.

Compiled on tape #2001-03, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Jan. 19, 1840

Navy Lt. Charles Wilkes discovered the Antarctic continent. Wilkes commanded the first U.S. Exploring Expedition with the sloop-of-war USS *Vincennes* and five other Navy ships. The expedition verified the existence of the continent by sailing more than a thousand miles along its coast.

More information about naval history can be found at <http://www.history.navy.mil/>.

Presidential Inauguration



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Anthony Schlim labels cellular phones for issue to tri-service medical support personnel for the presidential inauguration Jan. 20, 2001, in Washington, D.C.
Photo by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class James Moyer



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